GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2001
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
EXPORT OF HANDICRAFTS
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the concessions and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters to promote the export of handicrafts items;

(b) the number of registered units which are exporting handicraft articles;

(c) whether the Government had approved an Export Promotion Council for Handicraft;

(d) if so, whether the said Council has started functioning;

(e) if so, the benefits being derived by foreign buyers from this Council;

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to boost handicraft export for more employment in the textile sector;

(g) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any new schme for the development of handicraft trade in the Country particularly in Rajasthan; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a): The concession and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters to promote the export of handicrafts items include: duty draw back on exports; eligibility of funds from Market Access Initiative scheme for developing website for virtual exhibition; entitlement to the benefit of export house status on achieving lower average export performance of Rs.5.00 crore during the preceding three licensing years; entitlement to duty free import of specified items upto 3% of FOB value ofexports and assistance under MDA scheme to exporters for participation in fairs/exhibition abroad as well as for undertaking research.

(b): The number of registered units exporting handicrafts articles registered with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is 6692.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) started functioning in the year 1986-87.

(e): Due to various promotional export activities taken by the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (EPCH), the exportturnover of handicrafts has increased steadily from Rs.386.58 crores in the year 1986-87 to Rs.6967.50 crores during 2001-2002 and the benefit accruing both to exporters and foreign buyers. Moreover, the council is organising Indian handicrafts and Gifts Fairs twice a year in New Delhi, wherein a large number of foreign buyers and their buying agents participate directly and book on the spot order on Indian handicrafts.

(f): The steps taken or being taken by the Government to boost handicrafts export for more employment in textile sector include: organization of buyer -seller`s meet; overseas publicity; organisation of workshops on design development; export marketing and packaging etc; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; setting up of National level design center at Moradabad and New Delhi and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, annually in New Delhi.

(g) & (h): Yes, Sir. A new scheme named `Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana` has recently been launched with a view to ensure sustainable development of handicrafts sector in the country including in the state of Rajasthan. The scheme seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.